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Scene From Top O' The Hill

By: Jack Kelly

In common with most Americans, I maintain an interest in the school situation, and I do mean situation. Perhaps my interest is a bit more than the average person's, due to the fact that I have taught in the elementary, high school, and university branches. During these stints, I learned that I liked to teach but did not like teaching. The difference being that to teach something to people you merely impart knowledge in such a manner that it gets to them and then they know enough about it to go ahead on their own and pursue the matter further, if you have stimulated them. The "teaching" I mentioned means that whether you impart any knowledge or not, you are a hired hand who will put out the information on various subjects the way you are told to do so. That is the system you had to work under, where I worked, and that was the system that I did not cherish. Seriously, the system today makes the education of the students coincide with the mentality of the most stupid kid in the class. I don't like that system.

Since, in life, some people, thank God, are smarter than others, and are recognized as being so, why was the old system whereby a class was divided into the smarts, the not-so-smarts, and the stupid, why? I ask you, was that splendid system abolished?

The biggest City naturally has the biggest trouble. That means New York. Right now, New York's school system is in dreadful shape. There are almost 100-thousand people employed in the NYC school system. Nearly 60-thousand of that number are teachers. The whole kit and caboodle has just been subjected to a Commission-study.

You know what the Commission-study produced? It produced a report. What else? This 123-page document from a five-man commission, headed by McGeorge Bundy the eminent brain-truster of both Kennedy and Johnson, reached the obvious conclusion that the present system should be decentralized: given back to the neighborhoods or areas. Thus they would be conducted with the participation of the parents in the neighborhood.

"Saints preserve us," is an Irish expression based upon superstition and Religion, but it fits the case here, I think. The Bundy report would, in effect, no — it would actually — return the NYC school system to the old days of Tammany Hall wherein the "Leader" of a political ward would give out the jobs to Principals, Teachers, Clerks, and whatnots.

Upon reflection, possibly that is the best system. Certainly when the "leader" appoints people to jobs, they keep them only so long as the "leader" gets no bad reports from the voters in the Ward. Thus, the people who are the parents actually run

their schools. Again, let us face it, NYC in its past, has turned out some rather brilliant men, lots of whom sprung from the Public Schools. Take Governor Al Smith. A dropout in the 8th grade, due to the death of his father, he continued his education on his own, so to speak, and went along a rather high path. Some of his classmates, dropouts or not, ended in the penitentiary. Even some Harvard graduates have achieved the latter distinction. All of which only proves that kids can be taught, if they have the intelligence to grasp the material. If there are some incapable of grasping it they can at least be made to keep quiet while the others learn.

That appears to be the greatest lack in teaching today: discipline.

If a teacher clouted a hooligan today, no one in the newspapers would write about the hooliganism, he would write about the teacher clouting a juvenile. A 190 pounder of 17 or 18 who harasses a 130-pound teacher becomes the object of a sympathetic "Press" as soon as the teacher gives him what his parents should have given him many years before a clouting.

I feel that teaching became a lost art with the advent of the "Educational System." Systems have been the ruination of mankind since their inception. Mankind, with a God-given free will, knew that a government had to be a part of life. Government had a simple basis. One person in any given area could do as he pleased. Two persons in the same area complicated things a bit. Now, one person could only do as he pleased so long as it did not interfere with the other person doing as he pleased. As soon as the third and fourth and so on persons moved into the area, rules had to be made. A governor had to be placed upon each one so as not to infringe on the other. Everybody gave up something. Everybody gained something. This system worked fine. When a rough spot was uncovered, the people either worked it out or lived with it. All in all it worked pretty good. Then the parasite crept into the system.

He couldn't do anything himself but he jolly well could criticize these who could. Amazingly, the people accepted this non-producing growth. Next, they allowed it to take over. This growth took a title: System. Everything had to have a "system" attached to it. Then the system took over.

The sole survivor (despite being bloody and beaten as of this writing) appears to be the individual person. True, he is bearded by the systems of farming, banking, education, politics, government, marriage — you name it and there is a book or pamphlet, obtainable from the Government, to tell you all about the system to be applied. And now the System, a great machine, plans to reduce us all to a mere identification number.

IT NEVER FAILS



In Memory

In loving memory of a dear niece, Drucilla Roland who passed away a year ago.

Memories are treasures that none can steal;

Death is a heartbreak that none can heal.

The months have passed into a year,

Thinking of the bygone days fills my eyes with tears.

Some may forget you now that you are gone

But we will remember you no matter how long.

Forgive us oh God, in tears we pray;

She was so precious why couldn't she stay.

Rosa Lee Edmonds



WASHINGTON, ILL., REPORTER: "In Florida, Commissioner Francis Bridges said names of juveniles who commit adult crimes should be publicized. "When a juvenile commits an adult crime, then he should realize through prompt, positive action what he has done is not to be laughed off as the act of a juvenile," he said. Stating that no youth should be allowed to hide behind his age in committing vicious acts, the veteran parole commissioner said, "There has been too much of this shielding from publicity. . . I think names, including those of the parents, should be used by news media."

BROWERVILLE, MINN., BLADE: "The government spends more than \$425 million a year on its public information, news, views, and self-pleadings—more than double the outlay for news-gathering by the two major U. S. news services, the three major television networks, and the 10 biggest American newspapers. Much of this huge expenditure as reported by the Associated Press . . . is devoted to convincing Americans (with their own money) what the government does is for their welfare."

CANNELTON, IND., NEWS: "Why take land out of timber production and designate it only to recreation and wilderness? Let's keep it as much as possible in multiple use management and whenever possible leave it in private ownership which has the added benefit of paying taxes."

HOT SPRINGS, S. D., STAR: "Business people know that the one thing which constitutes the greatest loss for them is shoplifting. This trend has caused many a businessman to wonder whether or not he could stay in business. . . Previously, a person with unpaid merchandise had to leave the store before the proprietor could stop him. Now the store owner can apprehend shoplifting suspects when they are still in the store."

Resolution

At a regular joint meeting of the Earl Horton Post 122 and the Auxiliary Post, the following Resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, our beloved Comrade, James Hobart Ray, died on November 9, 1967, causing sorrow both in our organization and in the entire community;

And the said James Hobart Ray having been a member of the Earl Horton Post 122 from the time of the issuance of the Charter of said Post, and during which time he had been a faithful member;

And our late Comrade having been one of the most prominent citizens of Yancey County and believed in the existence of law and order;

THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED:

1. That we express to his widow, Mildred H. Ray, and his son, James Ray, our sincere sympathy at the passing of our Comrade;

2. That copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the family, to the Yancey Record and the North Carolina Legion News and a copy spread upon the minutes of the Earl Horton Post 122 of the American Legion.

Passed in regular session, November 29, 1967.

CADIE RICE, Commander
EVFLEN H. PATE, President, Auxiliary
H G BAILEY, Adjutant
MILDRED H ROBERTS, Secretary, Auxiliary

Letter To The Editor

Dear Yancey County Friends and Former Students:

May we express our deep appreciation for your friendship and business patronage all these years.

We are sorry due to ill health we are not able to give you the efficient service we would like, but we do have a lot of pictures unclaimed, I am sure because the Studio has been closed so much. We will not be able to take any pictures for Christmas delivery after December 15. But we will be open every day next week to try to deliver unclaimed pictures.

We are especially grateful for the beautiful Christmas decorations and for the beautiful Christmas parade.

Will all my former students please feel welcome to come up and say "Hello and How are you?" We miss you.

Merry Christmas every one.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Maye B. Robinson

Taylor Introduces Bill

WASHINGTON — U. S. Rep. Roy A. Taylor (D-N.C.) introduced a bill today to keep automobile master keys out of the hands of unauthorized persons.

Congressman Taylor said his bill was prompted by a circular mailed from Florida to some of his constituents advertising master keys to open all cars. The money-back offer promised keys for \$10 to unlock any car.

"It is obvious that such an offer has immediate appeal for car thieves or others who will simply steal things from parked vehicles," declared Rep. Taylor.

His bill would prohibit the manufacture and distribution by mail or through interstate commerce of master car keys.

Exempt would be used car dealers, locksmiths and governmental units, such as law enforcement agencies.

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